

Education Cabinet

Kentucky Board of Education

Department of Education

(Amendment)

704 KAR 3:480. Reading diagnostic and intervention grants [Early reading incentive grants].

RELATES TO: KRS 158.070 (7), 158.792, 158.794

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.070 (4), 158.792 (3), 158.791 (2)

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, and CONFORMITY: KRS 156.160 authorizes the Kentucky Board of Education to adopt administrative regulations establishing standards which school districts shall meet in student, program, service and operational performance.

KRS 158.792 (3) requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations to establish an application process and the criteria for funding reading diagnostic and intervention grants from the Read to Achieve Act of 2005 [Early Reading Incentive Grant Program], established in KRS 158.792. This administrative regulation establishes the application process and selection criteria.

Section 1. ~~[Definitions. (1) “Model” means an instructional approach which:~~

~~(a) Is based on reliable, replicable research;~~

~~(b) Includes a balance of instructional strategies that support the attainment of reading~~

~~and phonics skills contained in 704 KAR 3:303, The Kentucky Program of Studies; and~~

~~(c) Includes skills that lead to reading success.~~

~~(2) “Qualified student” means a student who:~~

~~(a) Is enrolled in public school;~~

~~(b) Is in the primary program as defined under KRS 158.031; and~~

~~(c) Is currently reading at low levels or exhibits characteristics that are predictive of reading problems.~~

~~Section 2. Purpose of Program. A grant provided through the Early Reading Incentive Grant Program shall:~~

~~(1) Be used to supplement a school’s program, individually or in partnership with another entity; and~~

~~(2) not be used to supplant funding for existing instructional activities.~~

~~Section 3]. Selection of Grants. (1) A public school that enrolls primary students, including the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf, shall be eligible to apply for a grant. A school that has been awarded funds from other grant sources to implement a reading diagnostic and intervention program shall not be eligible for a reading diagnostic and intervention grant.~~

~~(2) A school council or, if none exists, a school, may apply for a grant individually or jointly with another school.~~

~~(3) A grant application shall only be advanced by a school.~~

~~(4) A grant application shall not override an individual school council’s policy-making authority over instructional practices to meet identified reading needs pursuant to KRS 160.345.~~

(5) A grant application shall be based on selection of a reading diagnostic and reading intervention program as established in KRS 158.792 (1) (b) and (c) ~~[a model]~~ that meets identified reading needs.

(6) A grant application shall indicate the fiscal agent as a local board of education or other entity eligible to enter into a memorandum of agreement to receive state education funds. The fiscal agent for the Kentucky Schools for the Blind or Deaf shall be the Kentucky Department of Education.

(7) Funds shall be made available to an eligible applicant through a Request for Application (RFA) ~~[Proposal (RFP)]~~ process. The contents of each RFA ~~[RFP]~~ notice shall be subject to approval by the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention ~~[Early Reading Incentive]~~ Grant Steering Committee.

(8) To be eligible for funding, an application shall:

(a) Include the contents required by KRS 158.792 (3) (b) ~~[(a) through (f)]~~; and

(b) Specify the matching funds that will be allocated to directly support the implementation of the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]~~, as required by KRS 158.792 (4).

(9) A grant application shall be subject to approval by the principal and superintendent to ensure that the grant application includes adequate resources to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]~~. The use of categorical funds for matching funds shall be subject to approval by the local board of education.

(10) Matching funds shall include funds allocated by or under the discretion of the school council, or if none exists, by the local board of education.

- (11) Matching funds may be identified from other state, federal, local or nonpublic sources, within the uses and conditions set forth by the source of those funds.
- (12) The criteria for selection of applications for funding shall include the following:
- (a) Identification of literacy needs to include a description of the comprehensive reading model that is currently in place at the school and the compelling need for the reading diagnostic and intervention grant [~~Effectiveness of the school process for identifying needs and qualified students~~];
 - (b) Identification of the research-based reading diagnostic and intervention program as established in KRS 158.792 to be funded through grant [~~Extent and level of need~~];
 - (c) Professional Development Plan describing a plan for building capacity within the school through professional development specific to reading diagnostics and intervention [~~Effectiveness of the model in meeting the needs identified~~];
 - (d) Description of the plan for implementing the reading diagnostic and reading intervention program;
 - (e) Assessment and evaluation plan describing how the school will evaluate the continuous progress of students involved in the intervention program; and
 - (f) Budget and budget narrative to describe the fiscal resources needed for the program, any matching funds or cash contributions used to support the program, and a detailed explanation of how the funds will be used.
- ~~[(d) Level of commitment;~~
- ~~(e) Capacity to implement the model;~~
- ~~(f) Quality of the plan to evaluate results; and~~

~~(g) Efficiency and effectiveness of the budget, including use of proposed grant funds and matching funds.]~~

~~(13) [After consideration of the criteria established in subsection (12) of this section, geographic distribution may be considered.]~~

~~[(14)]~~ The Department of Education shall make available materials to assist a school in the preparation of a grant application.

(14) Independent evaluators shall review the applications. The Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Grant Steering Committee shall make recommendations for funding based upon the results of the review. The independent evaluators shall have:

~~[(15) An application shall be reviewed as follows:~~

~~(a) A panel shall review the application and make a recommendation to the Early Reading Incentive Grant Steering Committee. The panel shall include:]~~

(a). Knowledge ~~[1. Persons knowledgeable]~~ of 704 KAR 3:303, the Kentucky Program of Studies, ~~[and early reading instruction]; and~~

(b) [2:] Understanding and experience in early reading instruction, including a comprehensive reading program as described in Section 3 KRS 158.792 (1) (a) ~~[At least one (1) person who is currently teaching primary students.~~

~~(b) Upon receipt of the panel's recommendation, the Early Reading Incentive Grant Steering Committee shall make the final recommendation to the Department of Education].~~

Section 3 [4]. Grant Allocations and Requirements. (1) The award size or range of grants shall be determined by the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention ~~[Early Reading~~

~~Incentive]~~ Grant Steering Committee. ~~[The maximum time period for use of grant funds shall be twenty-seven (27) months.]~~

(2) In determining the amount of grant award, the following shall be considered:

(a) The cost of proposed activities needed to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]~~ selected; and

(b) The need for and amount of other funds to support activities related to the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]; and]~~

~~[(c) The number of students being served].~~

(3) Grant funds shall be limited to direct costs required to implement the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]~~.

(4) Monitoring of awarded grants shall include at least the following:

(a) Fiscal reports submitted to the Department of Education;

(b) Program evaluation reports on the implementation of the reading diagnostic and intervention program ~~[model]~~; and

(c) Documentation of the ~~[model's]~~ impact of the reading diagnostic and intervention program on the reading of qualified students served to include student progress on reading assessments.

(5) Prior to submitting each annual report to the Interim Joint Committee on Education as required by KRS 158.792 (6), the Department of Education shall, in consultation with the Reading Diagnostic and Intervention ~~[Early Reading Incentive]~~ Grant Steering Committee, provide a written report to the Kentucky Board of Education regarding grant activities and the use of grant funds.